GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:899
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
LAND EROSION
MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL;RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has submitted its report after studying the problem of land erosion due to Ganga river;

(b) if so, the date on which the said report was submitted and the main features of the report;

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government on the basis of report; and

(d) the success achieved so far by the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Expert Committee set up by Planning Commission, Government of India to study the erosion problems in Ganga-Padma in the Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal and suggest remedial measures submitted its report in December 1996 (Keskar Committee Report). The expert committee studied the erosion problems and suggested both short and long terms measures. Central team set up by Government of India for assessment of erosion problems in Ganga basin and suggesting remedial measures submitted its report in January 2000 (Murty Committee Report). The team in its report identified various critical anti erosion schemes pertaining to the States of Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal for controlling the erosion problems in Ganga basin.

High Level Expert Committee set up by Government of India for studying the erosion problem between Buxar and Mokama on river Ganga submitted its report in June 2001 (Ghosh Committee Report). The Committee in its report has suggested both immediate and long term measures for checking the erosion. The immediate measures includes completion of ongoing anti erosion schemes between Buxar and Moakama, while the long term measures covers detailed morphological studies of the river to know the behavior of the river, peoples' participation, maintenance of embankment and river training works, hydrological model studies, research for development of new techniques of bank protection etc.

(c) & (d) Since the Flood management is a State subject, these reports have been forward to the concerned States for formulating schemes for implementation after detailed investigations. Based on the recommendations of the Keskar Committee Report, Government of West Bengal started execution of several schemes and has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 78.57 crore. Government of India released Rs. 30 crore to State of West Bengal as additional central assistance during 1998. Farakka Barrage Project Authority has also undertaken anti-erosion measures in the vicinity of Farakka Barrage.

Further, in order to assist the Ganga basin States to take up critical anti erosion schemes, the Government of India formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) in January 2001 with a central share of Rs. 110 crore against which an amount of Rs. 70.8 crore has already been released to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. Out of 19 schemes taken up by the States under the above CSS, 6 schemes have already been completed and the remaining schemes are under various stages of completion.

Keeping in view the possible changes in the river morphology over the years, the Government of India have recently constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission with members from concerned Ganga basin States to review the recommendations of the earlier Committees and identify schemes for taking up critical anti erosion works.